(c) The question of compulsory fitment of the device on all two wheelers can be considered after its utility towards safety has been established.

Estimated number of blind persons in the country

*431. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present estimated number of blind persons in the country, State-wise;

(b) what were the achievements of the national programme for the control of blindness during the year 1992-93; and

(c) the targets set for the year 1993-94 under the programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) On the basis of a Survey conducted in 1989, it is estimated that there are more than 1.2 crores blind persons in the country. The State-wise list is given in the enclosed Statements-I (*See* below)

(b) During 1992-93 16 lakhs cataract operations were reportedly performed in the country. The State-wise list is given in the enclosed Statement II (*See* below).

(c) A target on 24.3 lakhs cataract operations was set for the year 1993-94 under the programme.

Statement-I

Statewise Prevalence of Blindness and Estimated Blind persons

State/UTs	Population (1991)	Prevalence* /10000 POP	Estimated** Blind Persons
Andhra Pradesh	66508008	150	10,88,000
Arunachal Pradesh	864558	123	13,500
Assam	22414322	134	3,00,000
Bihar	86374465	128	10.66.000
Delhi	9420644	63	62,000
Goa	1169793	203	25,000
Gujarat	41309582	144	5,83,000
Haryana	16463648	113	1,83,000
Himachal Pradesh	5170877	87	45,000
Jammu & Kashmir	7718700	280	2,11,000
Karnataka	44977201	129	5,59,000
Kerala	29098518	131	3,67,000
Madhya Pradesh	66181170	201	13,22,000
Maharashtra	78937187	164	12,52.000
Manipur	1837149	65	11,000
Meghalaya	1774778	22	3,000
Mizoram	689756	NA	
Nagaland	1209546	38	4,000
Orissa	31659736	172	5,38,000
Punjab	20281969	73	1,40,000
Rajasthan	43997990	224	9,38,600
Sikkim	406457	45	3,000
Tamil Nadu	55858946	165	9,22,000

State/UTs	Population (1991)	Prevaemce* /10000 POP	Estimated** Blind Persons
Tripura	2757205	118	34,000
Uttar Pradesh	139112287	158	20,98,000
West Bengal	68077965	96	6,54,000
A&N Islands	280661	67	1,900
Chandigarh	642015	189	11,400
D&N Haveli	138477	NA	—
Daman & Diu	101586	NA	—
Lakshadweep	51707	89	400
Pondicherry	807785	NA	—
TOTAL	846302688	149	12435200

*Source: WHO—GOI National Survey (1986—89)
**Survey results projected for 1991 census population

Statement-II

State-wise performance of Cataract Operations (1992-93)

STATE/UTs	TARGET	PERFORMANCE	%
Andhra Pradesh	200000	117936	59
Arunachal Pradesh	600	257	43
Assam	25000	17223	69
Bihar	155000	60083	39
Delhi	30000	30000	100
Goa	3000	3108	104
Gujarat	122000	124896	102
Haryana	62000	63834	103
Himachal Pradesh	10000	7938	79
Jammu & Kashmir	7000	4849	69
Karnataka	90000	77760	86
Kerala	50000	23079	46
Madhya Pradesh	150000	117968	74
Maharashtra	191000	207802	109
Manipur	1500	623	27
Meghalaya	4400	1030	23
Mizoram	400	132	33
Nagaland	250	158	63
Orissa	60000	28175	47
Punjab	90000	102531	114
Rajasthan	125000	81823	65
Sikkim	600	292	49
Tamil Nadu	160000	171946	107
Tripura	3000	2978	99
Uttar Pradesh	300000	234759	78

STATE/UTs	TARGET	PERFORMANCE	%
West Bengal	150000	116032	77
A&N Islands	400	140	35
Chandigarh	4500	2513	56
D&N Haveli	200	102	51
Daman & Diu	100	194	194
Lakshadweep	50	13	26
Pondicherry	4000	3337	83
E.S.I/A.F/C.R.	—	1417	—
TOTAL	2000000	1604928	80

News-item Captioned "Global Network on Diseases Sought"

*432. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item as reported in Hindustan Times dated the 17th March, 1995 under the caption "Global network on diseases sought";

(b) if so, whether the experts of WHO recently observed during a four day meeting the need to check epidemic likely to spread in India and the World;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the concrete steps Government propose to take to face the out-break of any disease?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) WHO Inter-Regional Meeting on Prevention and Control of Plague epidemic held in New Delhi between 13th and 16th March. 1995, observed that World will continue to confront National and International out-breaks and underlined the need for preparedness for effectively preventing & tackling such out-break.

Government has placed emphasis on strengthening? The Public Health System, improving sanitation, supply of portable water and provision of Health Education. The States have been advised to improve disease surveillance and taken steps to establish an early warning system for disease control.

Rate of Infant Deaths in Orissa

*433. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: SHRI O. P. KOHLI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the child mortality rate is on the increase in Orissa;

(b) if so, the main factors responsible therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop the child mortality rate in that state?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The child mortality rate in Orissa has shown a decline from 47.9 per 1000 children 0-4 years in 1984 to 33.4 in 1992. Since 1992 the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme is being implemented in the State to further reduce mortality and morbidity among children.